

13-36-101

ELECTIONS

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(2) The commissioner shall send a copy of the form to each candidate required to file reports or other information with the commissioner. Signing the form is voluntary, and a failure or refusal to sign is not a violation of the election laws. A form must be sent for each election as soon as feasible. The signed form must be returned to the commissioner.

(3) Any candidate not required to file with the commissioner but wishing to subscribe to the code may obtain the form from the commissioner and may sign the form and deliver it to the commissioner.

History: En. Sec. 2, Ch. 475, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 1, Ch. 128, L. 1993.

CHAPTER 36 CONTESTS

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Chapter Cross-References

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Challenges to local government bond elections, 7-7-105.
Definitions applicable to this chapter, 13-1-101.
Disposition of ballots and other election materials, 13-1-303.

Part 1 General Provisions

13-36-101. Grounds for contest of nomination or election to public office. An elector may contest the right of any person to any nomination or election to public office for which the elector has the right to vote, for any of the following causes:

- (1) on the ground of a deliberate, serious, and material violation of any provision of the law relating to nominations or elections;
- (2) whenever the person whose right is contested was not, at the time of the election, eligible to such office;
- (3) on account of illegal votes or an erroneous or fraudulent count or canvass of votes.

History: En. Sec. 45, Init. Act, Nov. 1912; re-en. Sec. 10810, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 10810, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-1464, R.C.M. 1947; reds. 23-4763 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 59, Ch. 365, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 23-4763; amd. Sec. 224, Ch. 571, L. 1979.

Cross-References

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cause for the contest. The contestant shall make application to the district court in the county where the contest is to be had. The judge shall then set the time for the hearing. The contestant shall serve notice 3 days before the hearing is scheduled. The notice shall state the time and place of the hearing.

(2) Any action to contest the right of a candidate to be declared elected to an office or to annul and set aside such election or to remove from or deprive any person of an office of which he is the incumbent for any offense mentioned in this title must, unless a different time is stated, be commenced within 1 year after the day of election at which such offense was committed.

History: (1) En. Sec. 71, Ch. 368, L. 1968; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 365, L. 1977; Sec. 23-3316, R.C.M. 1947; (2) En. Sec. 40, Init. Act, Nov. 1912; re-en. Sec. 10805, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 10805, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-1459, R.C.M. 1947; reds. 23-4759 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 57, Ch. 365, L. 1977; Sec. 23-4759, R.C.M. 1947; R.C.M. 1947, 23-3316(1) thru (3), 23-4759; amd. Sec. 225, Ch. 571, L. 1979; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 575, L. 1981.

Cross-References
Certification of nomination or election, 13-15-406, 13-15-507.
Application of Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 81(a), M.R. Civ. P. (see Title 25, ch. 20).

13-36-103. Court having jurisdiction of proceedings. An application for filing a statement, payment of a claim, or correction of an error or false recital in a filed statement or an action or proceeding to annul and set aside the election of any person declared elected to an office or to remove or deprive any person of his office for an offense mentioned in this title or any petition to excuse any person or candidate in accordance with the power of the court to excuse, as provided in 13-36-209, must be made or filed in the district court of the county in which the certificate, declaration, or acceptance of his nomination as a candidate for the office to which he is declared nominated or elected is filed or in which the incumbent resides.

History: En. Sec. 41, Init. Act, Nov. 1912; re-en. Sec. 10806, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 10806, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-1460, R.C.M. 1947; amd. and reds. 23-4760 by Sec. 25, Ch. 513, L. 1973; amd. Sec. 58, Ch. 365, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 23-4760; amd. Sec. 226, Ch. 571, L. 1979.

13-36-104. Nomination contests. In the case of nomination contests, the judge of the district court shall hear and determine the case and make all necessary orders for the trial of the case and carrying his judgment into effect. The order of the judge shall express the will of a majority of the legal voters of the political party, as indicated by their votes, disregarding technicalities or errors in spelling. Each party is entitled to subpoenas. The registrar shall issue a certificate to the person declared nominated by the court. The certificate shall be conclusive evidence of the right of the person to hold the nomination.

History: En. Sec. 71, Ch. 368, L. 1969; amd. Sec. 23, Ch. 365, L. 1977; R.C.M. 1947, 23-3316(4) thru (6).
Cross-References
Application of Montana Rules of Civil Procedure, Rule 81(a), M.R. Civ. P. (see Title 25, ch. 20).

Part 2 Procedure

13-36-201. Contents of contest petition. Any petition contesting the right of any person to a nomination or election shall set forth the name of every person whose election is contested and the grounds of the contest. The petition shall not thereafter be amended, except by leave of the court.

History: En. Sec. 48, Init. Act, Nov. 1912; re-en. Sec. 10813, R.C.M. 1921; re-en. Sec. 10813, R.C.M. 1935; Sec. 94-1467, R.C.M. 1947; reds. 23-4766 by Sec. 29, Ch. 513, L. 1973; R.C.M. 1947, 23-4766 (part).
Cross-References
Grounds for contest, 13-36-101.

13-36-202. Reception of illegal votes — allegations and evidence. When the reception of illegal votes is alleged as a cause of contest, it shall be sufficient to state generally that in one or more specified voting precincts